

10.11 Two year old funding

2 year old funding is a Government Initiative aimed at placing eligible 2 year old children into a quality childcare provider for up to 15 hours per week from the start of term after the child's second birthday. Children

- Born between 1st January to 31st March can claim funding from the term beginning on 1st April
- Born between 1st April to 31st August can claim from funding the term beginning on 1st September
- Born between 1st September to 31 December can claim funding from the term beginning on 1st January

To receive free childcare for two-year-olds, you must be in receipt of one of the following, benefits or meet one of the criteria below.

Two Year Funding Eligibility Flowchart 2020 to find out more.

Your 2-year-old can get funded early education and childcare if you live in England and get one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credits or Working Tax Credits and they have a gross annual income (before tax) of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you and your partner have a combined income from work of £15,400 or less per year after tax.

Even if you do not meet the criteria above, you may still be eligible for the funding for your child under the following non-economic criteria:

- you have received a DWP postcard from the Local Authority with a unique reference number (URN) on
- the child has been in local-authority care for 1 day or more
- the child has been adopted from local-authority care
- the child has left local-authority care under a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or an adoption order
- the child has a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care plan (EHC)
- they get Disability Living Allowance

In September 2019 the Government extended the eligibility criteria for the free early education entitlement for the most disadvantaged two-year olds. Two-year-old children in low income families are now able to take up a free place when their parent(s) have one of the following types of immigration status:

- Zambrano carer (derivative right to reside in the UK under European law as the primary carer of a British child or dependent adult)
- Leave to remain with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) granted on family or private life (Article 8) grounds
- Been refused asylum in the UK and receiving support from the Home Office under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Parents who are Zambrano carers or who have leave to remain with NRPF, must also be able to demonstrate that they have a low income.

For more information go to

<https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice>